

GREAT CROWDS OF NEW YORK'S POOR IN SEARCH OF COAL TURNED AWAY FROM YARDS, AND FORCED TO RETURN EMPTY HANDED TO FIRELESS HOMES.



STRONG PROOF OF PLOT TO FORCE UP COAL PRICE.

Alfred Barber, One of the Leading Retailers in This City, Shows that the Operators Are Holding Back the Supply in Order to Recoup Themselves for Losses in the Strike.

An intolerable condition prevails in the city of New York as a result of the conspiracy of the operators and speculators to make the public pay the cost of the coal strike.

From Riverside Drive to Cherry Hill women and children are shivering in cold apartments because they cannot buy coal. Thousands and thousands of tons of it are stored along the lines of the coal railways in New Jersey and on barges along the river fronts, but it cannot be bought in New York, although pneumonia prevails throughout the city.

In asserting that the Christian gentlemen in whose hands God has placed the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania, according to President Baer, are in a conspiracy to force up and keep up the price of coal, The Evening World makes no unfounded statement. The existing condition proves it; retail dealers confirm it.

The bare denials of the operators are empty words, in view of the indisputable fact that coal cannot be bought, that people are freezing, that the lives of babies and invalids are being sacrificed.

BLOOD MONEY FOR OPERATORS.

The operators are making money—plenty of it. They are getting back the money they lost during the coal strike, but it is blood money.

If there is one man in New York who knows the coal situation from top to bottom and around the sides that man is Alfred Barber, head of the firm of Alfred Barber & Sons. This firm is one of the oldest in the city and in volume of business ranks with the largest.

It was the firm chosen by the Coal Trust to sell stove coal to the poor at 15 cents a ton when coal was selling at \$28 a ton. Mr. Barber has been in the coal business for sixty years and he agrees with The Evening World that there is a conspiracy.

"They are trying," said Mr. Barber to-day, "to make the public defray the expenses of the miners' strike. They tell us that they have no coal for sale at the price set by themselves, but all day long our telephone is kept busy by men anxious to sell us coal at \$11 a ton in any quantities. Where did these men get the coal?"

TIME FOR THE PEOPLE TO ACT.

"The time has come," says Mr. Barber, "for the people to take the coal situation in their own hands."

At present the situation is a long way from the hands of the people. They have the money to pay for coal; they clamor for coal at the yards of the retail dealers, but they cannot get it. The price is not high enough as yet to suit the rapacity of the Christian gentlemen who are cornering the supply.

If any doubter questions this let him go out and try to purchase coal.

What the strike cost the operators and what it is going to cost them when the Roosevelt commission puts up the wages of the miners is a matter of speculation on the part of the general public. What they are going to get back and how they are going to make the public pay increased profits because the public sympathized with the miners can be estimated. Mr. Barber estimated that between November, 1902, and November, 1903, the operators—unless stopped by the power of public sentiment aroused by death and suffering—will have cleared \$100,000,000 more than if the strike had not taken place. And it is in their power, if they want to, to put on the screws to clear \$200,000,000.

THE KEY TO THE CONSPIRACY.

The attitude of the operators was well exposed yesterday at Scranton, when the man Crawford was put on the stand to testify before the Strike Commission. He is an independent operator—one of the men who came to New York and forced the coal roads to stop the plan to compromise the strike. He informed the Commission that it was none of the business of the public what profit he made on his coal. He admitted that during the strike he sold coal at \$20 a ton. It is not likely that men who have been getting \$20 a ton for coal will willingly sell it for \$5 a ton, especially when they know that they can force consumers to pay any price they choose to ask.

If ever there was a pitiful and exasperating economic condition, that condition exists to-day. Thousands of homes in New York are cold. The streets are covered with ice. What little coal there is for delivery is distributed with the greatest difficulty. The outlook is absolutely hopeless, unless the Government steps in and compels the law-breakers who are trading in the misery of the city to move the immense supply of coal they have stored for speculative purposes along the tracks of their railroads in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Men with babies who are ill in cold rooms are not in a cheerful state of mind to-day. Husbands with wives who are ill in cold rooms are vindictive. There are mutterings of discontent on every side.

That the poor are not the only sufferers from the coal scarcity is shown in the plight of Miss Helen Gould. At her country place up the Hudson a collection of plants worth \$100,000 was in danger because she could not get coal for her greenhouse. Her agents scoured the city, offering any price for

coal, and they were unable to secure it in quantities worth while. But at last a great quantity was found—not in New York, but in a barge tied up to the bank of the Hudson River at a remote station, where there is no demand for coal at all.

The poor are storming the gates of the coal yards all over the city, carrying their pails and bags, but few of them can be accommodated. By to-night it is believed that there will be no coal for sale in the city. The prospect of an absolute famine cannot be overlooked. People with money enough to hire men to discover quantities of coal in out-of-the-way places may be able to have heat in their homes over Sunday. The poor must do the best they can.

Police guards are necessary around the coal-yards. Three arrests were made yesterday of persons rendered frantic by their inability to buy. Landlords are complaining that tenants are beginning to wreck the woodwork of their homes for fuel.

In the meantime there is plenty of coal on the sidetracks of the coal railroads in New Jersey and Pennsylvania—coal covered with snow and sleet, miles and miles of it, awaiting the limit of the avarice of the men who own it.

POOR WOMEN IN CITY HALL PARK PICK OVER REFUSE ASHES FOR FUEL.



MAURICE GRAU HURT.

He Will Have to Remain at Home for Several Days.

Maurice Grau, President of the Maurice Grau Opera Company and musical director of the Metropolitan Opera House, is at his home to-day contemplating with no great amount of composure the possibility of remaining confined to the house for several days as the result of an accident in which he was severely bruised.

While riding in his coupe from his residence in Fifty-sixth street to his office in the Opera House, he was thrown out and roughly shaken in a collision with an electric car which ran into the carriage at Seventh avenue and Fifty-second street. He managed to get up without any assistance and returning home called a physician.

Though not seriously hurt he will not leave the house until he has fully recovered from the shock.

Capital seeking safe investment finds it through Sunday World Wants.

TRAIN HIT RUNAWAY HORSE.

Body of Animal Carried on Pilot of Engine and Flagman Hurt.

While trying to stop a runaway horse drawing a heavy ice wagon from running in front of a New Haven train at Woodlawn crossing Flagman Roberts, an aged man, is suffering from serious injuries to-day. Roberts seized the bridle of the horse as it was crossing and pushed it back so that the wagon was not on the rails. The cowcatcher, however, struck the horse and killed it, while the ice wagon was thrown on the brave flagman and he was pinned to the ground. The bleeding horse was carried on the flat of the New Haven engine to the bridge over the Bronx River, a distance of 30 feet, where it fell off. The driver of the wagon escaped unhurt.

Benefit for Eagle Employees.

A benefit entertainment for the employees of the job printing department of the Brooklyn Eagle will be given on Thursday evening, Dec. 18, at Schwaben Hall, 4 Myrtle and Knickerbocker avenues. A good programme has been arranged.

FREEZING WOMEN PICK ASHES TO KEEP THEM ALIVE.

Pathetic Scene in City Hall Park, Where Well-Dressed Housewives Rummage in Coal Cans After Fuel for Their Families.

Before Mayor Low came down to the City Hall this morning, when business men and women were hurrying to their work in the early hours, a scene that could not have otherwise than moved a heart of stone was being enacted in the City Hall Park.

Women who had been to the coal-yards in a vain effort to get fuel were digging in the ash cans and pails that the janitors of the municipal buildings had placed on the sidewalks for the unburned bits of coal that remained.

DIRE NECESSITY DROVE THEM TO IT.

A look at the faces of these women and at their neat dresses told very plainly that they were not of the type that in former years have been picked from ash cans. They were respectable women, driven to that dire extremity to keep their families from cold and privation.

They shielded their faces from the curious gaze of the men and women who live in comfortable homes and know nothing of the misery and suffering and struggles endured by the residents of the east side. They felt the degradation of the act they were performing, but they had only one alternative, and that was to endure the cold.

Some brought baskets, but the greater number wrapped the half-charred bits of coal in strong aprons and carried them away hidden under their shawls. There was none there who did not wish to hide the fact that she was forced to bring herself to such a method to secure fuel.

The example of Mary Barra, of No. 14 Baxter street, will serve as typical of the many others. She was neatly dressed in a blue serge dress and black hat. Around her shoulders was wrapped a worn shawl and her black hair was tinged with gray by the dust of the coal that the wind had blown up as her hands dug after bits of coal.

IT MEANT GET FUEL OR FREEZE.

She hesitatingly told that she lived with her husband and two small children. In the summer her husband has plenty of work as a bricklayer and makes good wages. But for several weeks he has been out of employment and gets only an occasional job doing odd bits of work.

Mrs. Barra works as a sweeper and duster in one of the big office buildings on Broadway and earns \$15 a month, which does not go far toward supporting the family. She made an effort to buy coal and failed. The men at the yards in most cases told her that they had no coal for her. In some places she could get coal, but the price was so high that nothing would have remained out of her meagre wages to buy food.

The oldest child, a boy, is in school, and the mother is making every effort to keep him there. She had possibly half a bushel of coal wrapped in her apron this morning and hurried home that she might get him ready to send to school.

FOUND DEAD IN BED.

An Empty Bottle Beside the Body Raises Doubts as to Cause.

Frank Gotta, sixty-five years old, was found dead in bed in the house where he has boarded three years, at No. 261 Pitkin avenue, East New York, this morning, and the death was first reported as being due to natural causes. The coroner, however, found an empty bottle in the bed and it was then said that he may have committed suicide. Gotta had been sick and complaining several years and his death was expected.

CUBAN TREATY IS SIGNED.

Work at Havana Is at Last Completed.

HAVANA, Dec. 12.—The protocol of the commercial treaty between Cuba and the United States was signed last night.

JOHN BARRETT DECLINES.

Will Not Accept the Japanese Mission.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Secretary Hay has received a cablegram from John Barrett, dated at Calcutta, India, to-day stating that he regarded it as his duty to continue his connection with the St. Louis Exposition, and therefore declining the Japanese mission, which had been tendered to him. It is understood that Lloyd Griscom, Jr., now Minister to Persia, will be the successor to the late Minister Buck.

Receives Indeterminate Sentence.

David Morrison, who was convicted in the Brooklyn County Court of grand larceny in the second degree for swindling Otto Ransweiler out of \$500 by selling him a saloon Morrison didn't own, was sentenced to-day by Judge Crane. As the jury made a recommendation for mercy the judge made the sentence an indeterminate one of not less than one year nor more than one year and eight months.

G. H. Mumm & Co.

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CHAMPAGNE

Importations for Five Years

TO NOVEMBER 1, 1904.

3,665,988 BOTTLES.

303,499 CASES

more THAN ANY OTHER BRAND.

An achievement unparalleled in the History of the Champagne Trade. The famous 1898 vintage now arriving is destined to make a still more emphatic increase.

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The most important, from the buyer's standpoint, that has ever been held in New York. Clothing made with more care than is given to any other clothing made or sold in America—BAR NONE. It is a strong statement. We make it in good faith. We make it with full appreciation of the excellent clothing that two or three time-honored firms produce—BUT WE MAKE IT UPON EXACT KNOWLEDGE. That sort of clothing is rarely reduced—hence the opportunity to get it now and here.

At Half Prices

in most cases and in all cases at very great reductions should be and will be quickly taken advantage of by every man to whom STYLE and QUALITY signify something as well as price. Thousands have been fitted and pleased here at regular prices. NOW you get the same high grade perfect fitting clothing and save money besides.

OVERCOATS.

Men's Overcoats in Friezes, Kerseys, Meltons, Oxford Cheviots, all colors, all styles, swell make, hand-padded shoulders, loose back, so that the coat hangs from collar and shoulders, none worth less than \$12.50; most worth \$15 and \$16, \$9.65

Men's Stylish Overcoats, high grade Kerseys, Meltons, Friezes and Oxford Cheviots, handsomely hand tailored; equal to thoroughly good custom work; none worth less than \$16, most \$20, at \$11.75

Men's Overcoats of Best Vicunas, Thibets, Friezes, Kerseys, Meltons, Oxford, the rich imported fabrics used by swell custom tailors, beautifully made; value \$35, and equal to \$40 custom garments \$14.70

\$3.00 FANCY VESTS, \$1.85.

SUIT SALE.

Men's Suits, of spe-did-it! wool Cheviots and Cassimeres, this season's most popular patterns; also plain colors; well made and finished; all sizes; 40 styles; none worth less than \$12.50; most worth \$16; at \$9.75

Men's Suits, of rich Fanny Worsted, blue and black Cheviots and Cassimeres, nobby effects and rich subdued mixtures; handsomely tailored; worth fully \$18 to \$20, at \$11.65

Men's Suits of richest custom fabrics, handsomely hand tailored in finest custom style; none worth less than \$20, most worth \$25, yet having all the appearance of \$40 custom garments... \$14.60

Open Saturday Evenings Till 9 o'Clock.

S. N. Wood & Co.

740-742 Broadway,

Just South of Astor Place.

CANDY

Care should always be exercised in the selection of candies. At this season of the year, when so much of it is bought for the little folks, it is well to be extremely cautious and buy "where it is made." Many unscrupulous dealers will try to get rid of old stock, thinking that in the hurry and bustle of holiday making quality will be overlooked. This is wrong. We have been here for two score years and have always made QUALITY predominant. It matters not how low we price our goods, the quality is never sacrificed.

SPECIAL FOR FRIDAY ONLY. CHOCOLATE, VANILLA AND WALNUT BUTTERSCOTCH WAFERS. 1 lb. 10c

SPECIAL FOR SATURDAY ONLY. VANILLA CREAM ALMONDS. 1 lb. 10c

SPECIAL FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. BUTTER PEANUT BRITTLE. 1 lb. 10c

ASSORTED FRUIT AND NUT CHOCOLATES. 1 lb. 10c

CREAMED GRENABLE WALNUTS. 1 lb. 10c

HIGH-GRADE BOXBONS & CHOCOLATES OR ALL CHOCOLATES. 1 lb. 10c

We will deliver any or all of the above specialties at the following rates: Manhattan Island, \$1.00; Brooklyn, Jersey City, Hoboken or the Bronx, \$1.15; No Goods Sent C. O. D.

Churches, Sunday-Schools, Fairs & Institutions Supplied at Special Prices

\$25 SUITS

That's a string we like to harp on. By \$25 each suits let "Semi-ready" stand or fall.

Cloths shown by no clothiers, and by few custom-tailors in New York. Some cloths controlled by "Semi-ready" exclusively. Kinds "Semi-ready" took the "run on," from famous West of England Mills. Kinds made at home to "Semi-ready's" order. Kinds you careful dressers pay a tailor \$20 to \$25 too much for, just because you like exclusive things.

"Semi-ready" has eighteen retail Wardrobes, so that very little of one cloth gets into each.

Expect us "to fit to measure" any one—tall, short, lean, portly, and all the variations.

Always make a note of this—You need not buy because you look, or keep because you buy.

Sold at the final fitting stage. Finished to your order by expert tailors. Delivered any time you say.



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